

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 21, 2001

LB 671

something along those lines, they're not going to pay the \$500 licensing fee, and they can't go down to the corner liquor store and order this particular brand of wine to...so they can consume it. Is that accurate? Could you respond to that?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes, I can, Senator Bourne. In the first place, there are hundreds and hundreds, if not thousands, of small wineries throughout the United States. We have some right here in Nebraska. And I think, you know, the accusation that probably this would hurt Nebraska wineries, I think it's just the opposite. I think it would help them because it would...there are some small wineries that aren't going to want to pay that \$500 license. But I don't know why there would be any reason...what do they do in other states? Some states have...some states have as high as a \$1,500 shipping license...

SENATOR BOURNE: Sure, and I've not looked at other states. All I'm saying is from the correspondence I've received,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...it seems to me that there is a legitimate concern on behalf of these individuals who want to import three bottles of wine from "ABC Winery" in California, and this winery is so small that they don't deal with the corner liquor store. And that's kind of what I'm asking you to expand on. Is this a concern, all these letters and e-mails? Are they on target or are they totally...

SENATOR JANSSEN: The only one that I could see that would be a concern was when someone said that they would order a mixed case. No. A wholesaler or a distributor is not going to order one mixed case. They will order for you other cases, full cases, if you designate, you know, that you're going to be a customer. Some of these, Senator Bourne, some of these bottles of wine are very, very expensive, and I can understand why someone, as long as the law allows it, does not want to pay the sales tax on this.

SENATOR BOURNE: So you feel that it's more of a sales tax issue rather than an accessibility issue? Because, as I mentioned, a